

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication that Claims 1-3 and 5-10 are allowed. Because these claims have not been amended herewith, it is respectfully submitted that these claims remain in condition for allowance.

Regarding the double patenting rejection of Claims 11-13, that rejection is respectfully traversed. Claim 11, from which Claims 12 and 13 depend, recites in part, "said nozzle and said cooling rolls are placed in atmospheric gas and windbreak members are arranged to prevent the atmospheric gas from being swirled by the rotating cooling rolls." As this feature is not recited in independent Claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 11 is patentably distinct from Claim 1. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Additionally, Applicants respectfully request acknowledgement of the Petition filed June 12, 2003, a copy of which is enclosed herewith.

Consequently, in view of the foregoing discussion, it is respectfully submitted that this case is in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



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Gregory J. Maier  
Registration No. 25,599  
Robert T. Pous  
Registration No. 29,099  
Attorneys of Record

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413 -2220  
GJM/RTP/KDP/cja/dmr

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